

THE BULLETIN

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DECATUR COUNTY

Vol. 3 - No. 63

Greensburg, Indiana

April 3, 1975

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!!

Mrs. James Green
Dr. Wm. A. Meyer
Mrs. Letha E. Meyer
Gerald H. Dreyer
Donald Castor
Mrs. Sara Offenbacher
Mrs. L.E. Nickson, Macomb, Illinois
William Patterson
Mrs. Lela Isgrigg, Birmingham, Mich.
Mrs. Shirley Wiete, New Point
Edgar F. Thackery, Oxford, Ohio
Allen Chitwood, Adams
Mrs. Fay Chitwood, Adams
Howard Alyea
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SPRING Allan Beall
Paul H. Huber

SUMMER Walter B. Lowe
Morgan L. Miers

FALL William W. Parker
W. Dwight Shera

DINNER Officers

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Would germinate anywhere.

A gem from Grant Henderson's
latest publication- THE BALLAD
OF CLAY BUCKETS.

OCCASION: Spring Meeting

DATE: Sunday afternoon
April 13, 1975
2:00 P.M.

PLACE: The chapel
First Baptist Church
209 W. Washington St.,
Greensburg, Indiana

SPEAKER: Mr. James Scott

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The quaint old Quaker-like town of Adams derived its name from John Adams, he and another gentleman by the name of Jonathan Long being the first settlers on the site of the now town, and the place was named in honor of Mr. Adams.

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Mr. Heaton is eighty-four, and Mrs. Hoaton eighty-two years of age. They will have been married sixty-three years in September, having been married at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Deem, in a house that stood on the ground where now is the home of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Cory, four miles west of this city. Her maiden name was Miss Mary A. Deem, and she is a sister of Oliver Deem. They have no children--living or dead.

Mr. Heaton was born in Fugit township on the 17th day of October, 1824, and has been a resident of Adams since September, 1868. He owned and operated a grist mill within a stone's throw of the town for over twenty years. He and his good wife own a life estate in an eighty-acre farm near Adams, that will pass into the hands of the Methodist Preachers' Aid Society at their death. He and she have been members of the Methodist church since boyhood and girlhood.

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Daniel W. Hazelrigg, the druggist and also the postmaster, deserves special mention, for the fact that he lost his father by death when a mere lad of seventeen years, but with an iron will and a determination to succeed, he took up the business management of the store left by his father, and by close application to his duties, kind and courteous treatment of his patrons, by honest acts in all business transactions, his daily walk in life being that of a Christian gentleman, he has succeeded beyond measure, and is to-day numbered among the solid and substantial business men of the town. He has filled the position of postmaster for the past ten years, and has and is to-day giving splendid satisfaction in the official capacity of a government employe--that of postmaster. His specialty is drugs, though he handles a full and complete line of groceries, provisions, confectioneries and hardware.

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An up-to-date general store is conducted by J.J. Mull & Bro. They study

to please their customers, and the large trade they enjoy is an indication that well do they succeed. They are among the permanent fixtures and have established a reputation for square dealing.

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Our good friend and ex-county clerk, John R. Turner, is the owner and gives his personal attention to a general store, and can sell you most anything from a suit of clothes to a set of harness. He carries hardware, tinware, boots, shoes, clothing, buggies and a hundred and one other things too tedious to mention, and has a splendid trade.

A. BENNETT.

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The village blacksmiths, who make the welkin ring from the anvil, are Charles Adkins and J. S. Ritchey, who go at it "hammer and tongs."

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Mrs. Robert Marks is the Noble Grand of Friendship Lodge No. 646, Daughters of Rebekah, and it boasts a large membership and is in a health condition in every sense of the word. This noble band of ladies contains no drones-all energetic workers.

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The people of Adams point with pride to their high school, and are justly proud of the successful corps of teachers. Prof. Clifford Zetterberg is the principal; Miss Emma Tremain has charge of room two; Mrs. Robert Marks room three, and Fred Wolverton room four. The school is a credit to the town, and is one straw that indicates in which direction the wind is blowing.

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At present the Christian church is without a pastor; Rev. Paul Edwards is pastor of the M. E. Church, and Rev. Neal is pastor of the Baptist church.

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Friday, March 8, 1907

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BLAINE AND LOGAN RALLY

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After the town had quieted a bit, the two candidates did their best to entertain the crowds who would listen to the political issues of the day. I do not remember much of what either of these men said; in fact, I do not think I paid much attention to what was said, as there was so much excitement that my attention was much engrossed otherwise. However, I do remember how Mr. Blaine looked as he stood up in his carriage and gracefully waved at the crowd. James G. Blaine was a very fine looking man. In fact, I would say he was a handsome gentleman of the very finest quality. Mr. Blaine was sometimes called "the plumed knight" by his admirers. John A. Logan, who was running for vice-president was a very broad shouldered man of medium height, heavy set, and his hair was long and black as a crow, and he sported a mustache of the same color that extended in ponderous curves on each side of his mouth. He had very heavy black eyebrows that cast a dark shadow over his very piercing black eyes.".

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STANDARD-
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/THE BULLETIN/

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DECATUR COUNTY

Vol. 3 - No. 63

Greensburg, Indiana

April 3, 1975

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Mrs. Letha E. Meyer
Gerald H. Dreyer
Donald Castor
Mrs. Sara Offenbacher
Mrs. L.E. Nickson, Macomb, Illinois
William Patterson
Mrs. Lela Isgrigg, Birmingham, Mich.
Mrs. Shirley Wiete, New Point
Edgar F. Thackery, Oxford, Ohio
Allen Chitwood, Adams
Mrs. Fay Chitwood, Adams
Howard Alyea
Mrs. Howard Alyea 819

* * *

President Myers, advises as a new policy, that hereafter the Directors will be held responsible for the meetings. The schedule for 1975 follows:

<u>SPRING</u>	Allan Beall Paul H. Huber
<u>SUMMER</u>	Walter B. Lowe Morgan L. Miers
<u>FALL</u>	William W. Parker W. Dwight Shera
<u>DINNER</u>	Officers

* * *

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But he said he didn't care;
The wild oats he was sowing
Would germinate anywhere.

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OCCASION: Spring Meeting
DATE: Sunday afternoon
April 13, 1975
2:00 P.M.
PLACE: The chapel
First Baptist Church
209 W. Washington St.,
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SPEAKER: Mr. James Scott

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THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DECATUR COUNTY

Vol. 3 - No. 63

Greensburg, Indiana

April 3, 1975

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Mrs. L.E. Nickson, Macomb, Illinois
William Patterson
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DINNER Officers

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OCCASION: Spring Meeting
DATE: Sunday afternoon
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PLACE: The chapel
First Baptist Church
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SPEAKER: Mr. James Scott

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Mr. Heaton is eighty-four, and Mrs. Hoaton eighty-two years of age. They will have been married sixty-three years in September, having been married at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Deem, in a house that stood on the ground where now is the home of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Cory, four miles west of this city. Her maiden name was Miss Mary A. Deem, and she is a sister of Oliver Deem. They have no children--living or dead.

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THE BULLETIN

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DECATUR COUNTY

Vol. 3 - No. 63

Greensburg, Indiana

April 3, 1975

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Mrs. Letha E. Meyer
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* * *

BLAINE AND LOGAN RALLY

"In the fall of 1884 things and events in Greensburg were going along in a very peaceful manner when the political campaign began to attract the attention of the population of our quiet little city. The campaign of Blaine and Logan, Republican candidates, and Cleveland and Hendricks, carrying the banner as candidates for the Democrats. My memory and personal experiences reached back to the days of Grant and Colfax, Hayes, Garfield and Arthur. I had participated in all these exciting days following the close of the Civil War. But here in the fall of 1884 came Blaine and Logan. The train on which they came stopped at the edge of town, out on North Michigan Avenue, almost in front of our house, and let those important personages alight and get into a fine carriage to be driven downtown. This was done to avoid the great congestion and crowds of people who swarmed in thousands in the downtown district. There was a hot time in town that night. Great bands of music marched and countermarched, playing overwhelming martial music. Drums and fifes screamed and beat like mad, as each county delegation began to pour in from the outside districts at every road leading into town. As the night advanced, a long torchlight procession, headed by Captain Dunn, the postmaster, lighted up the town with a brilliancy of unusual strength and splendor.

After the town had quieted a bit, the two candidates did their best to entertain the crowds who would listen to the political issues of the day. I do not remember much of what either of these men said; in fact, I do not think I paid much attention to what was said, as there was so much excitement that my attention was much engrossed otherwise. However, I do remember how Mr. Blaine looked as he stood up in his carriage and gracefully waved at the crowd. James G. Blaine was a very fine looking man. In fact, I would say he was a handsome gentleman of the very finest quality. Mr. Blaine was sometimes called "the plumed knight" by his admirers. John A. Logan, who was running for vice-president was a very broad shouldered man of medium height, heavy set, and his hair was long and black as a crow, and he sported a mustache of the same color that extended in ponderous curves on each side of his mouth. He had very heavy black eyebrows that cast a dark shadow over his very piercing black eyes.".

"The Autobiography or Memoirs
As Written
By Oscar G. Miller"
pp. 137-138.

* * * * *

Free for the asking, a copy of "Decatur County in the First World War" by Winona Crisler Deiwert. Needs rebinding but otherwise good. Call Paul H. Huber at 663-6866.

* * *

"I believe the future is only the past again, entered through another gate." - PINERO

The editor is trying to ascertain the date that the first interurban car came through Adams. It seems that Billy Toothman, a Civil War vet and the father of Arthur Toothman, saw the first car come through Adams and then went home and died. No great spectacle perhaps, the coming of the first interurban, nothing like being in battle, but nevertheless Billy Toothman died that day and was buried at Milford "along the fence". Now if some kind subscriber will take the trouble to find his grave and the marker, we can ascertain for all future generations just when the first traction car came through Adams. We believe the date was January 25, 1907. We are certain that the interurban lasted until 1932.

THE BULLETIN

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DECATUR COUNTY

Vol. 3 - No. 64

Greensburg, Indiana

July 4, 1975

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!!

Ben Richardson, Westport
Mrs. Eric Austin
George Z. Wiley
Mrs. Buelah Blauvelt 823

* * *

THE LAST MEETING - Jim Scott of Richland, Indiana, in his second appearance before the Society, reviewed for us - as he put it - some things that we already knew but enjoyed hearing again. One classic statement was - with the advent of the automobile about 1900 - that the country hasn't been the same since. How true. He also stated, that the first public building to be erected was a jail. This we can understand and leads us to offer from the Commissioner's Record the specifications for what must have been our second jail. There have been several. Lot 38 is in the area of the present Johnston Wholesale Co. on South Broadway.

* * *

Fire is the best of servants;
but what a master!

There is properly no History;
only Biography.

If you hit a mule over the nose at the outset of your acquaintance, he may not love you, but he will take a deep interest in your movements ever afterward.

OCCASION:

Summer Meeting

DATE:

Sunday Afternoon
July 13, 1975
2:00 P.M.

PLACE:

The chapel
First Baptist Church
209 W. Washington St.,
Greensburg, Indiana

SPEAKER:

August M. Hardee

Mr. Hardee, manager of public relations for the Connor Prairie Pioneer Settlement, will present a film depicting highlights of that restoration. He appeared here two years ago but will offer a different program at this time. Arrangements by Walter B. Lowe and Morgan L. Miers.

EVERYBODY IS WELCOME! COME AND BRING
A GUEST.

* * *

THE SOCIETY'S OFFICERS 1975

President-----Dale G. Myers
1st. V.P. Van P. Batterton
2nd V.P.-----Col. James K. Gaynor
Corresponding Secy.-----

Mrs. Leonilla Lauderdale
710 N. Franklin St.
Greensburg, Ind. 47240

Recording Secy.-----Dale F. Parker
225 W. Washington St.
Greensburg, Ind. 47240

Treasurer

Miss Alpha Thackery

* * *

Please direct all matters of membership to the Recording Secretary, Mr. Dale F. Parker, 225 W. Washington St., Greensburg, Indiana, 47240.

Ordered by the Board that the Sheriff of this county do proceed after (after giving three weeks notice in the Political Observer) to sell on the second Saturday in June next, at the door of the Court House in Greensburgh, The building of a jail for said county on the following description - to-wit:

To be of hewn timber (not less than) twelve inches square, the whole of the timbers to be 18 feet long, a double wall, the corners duftail natches, the inside walls to extend and natch on the outside walls a space between the walls of six inches to be filled with wide rocks set on edge, the under floor to be the same as the walls with stone between the logs croping each other, the foundation or first course of the floor and the two bottom rounds of the outside walls, to be of white oak, the timber of the balance of the wall of good sound wood, such as beach sugar etc. Two windows in the lower story on the west and the other on the east side of the house, opposite each other, of the following description, six inches in heighth and four feet wide, to be filled with grates of iron, one inch square, three inches apart to stand up and down and to pass through (a bar of iron half an inch think and three inches wide to crop the grate in the center bar to extend with timber two inches) a plate of rolled iron half an inch thick and to extend in the walls a proper distance, the rolled iron to cope and be well spiked on the jams around the windows. The logs of the walls to be natched close to the inside walls to be laid in lime mortar- The second floor to be of one tier of logs hewn twelve inches in thickness the edge hewn square. The second story to be in like manner of the first, with a tier of joists one foot thick laid close, resting on the inside wall, and butting against the outside wall to be hewn to a thickness of twelve inches, the edges square and on tier croping them in the same manner to extend out for the roof to stand on, and windows in the upper story similar as in the lower story -One door of common size to be cut in the end wall on the north side, in the upper story, a door frame to be made as wide as the thickness of the walls and well fastened in both walls the frame to be of white oak four inches thick to be lined on the inside with sheet iron, well spiked on the sheet iron to extend two inches on the walls, and the frame well spiked to the walls with sufficient iron spikes, not less than eight inches long. The shutter to be two and a half feet wide and six feet high to be made of two inch oak plank made double and well spiked together with strong iron spikes. A strong lock with double bolts to be well imbedded in the door with a sufficient key- both sides of the door to be entirely lined with strong sheet iron nailed on with one nail to every three inches, a sheet of hammered iron half an inch thick, twelve inches long and eight inches wide to be set in the frame the thickness of the iron, to be well spiked to the door frame with strong spikes to receive the bolt and to be bent so as to cover the inside of the frame. A substantial stairway to be erected on the outside of the jail to reach the door with a good platform the timber of white oak, the building to be well covered with shingles, the gables weatherboarded, the eaves boxed and plain cornice, the corners of the house to be neatly trimed down, a hatchway to be made in the center of the second floor two feet and a half square with a sufficient shutter, lock and key. The doors to be hung with strong wrought iron hinges. The whole of the work to be completed in a good strong workman like manner. Stories to be 7 feet high in the clear inside. The building to stand on a stone foundation of one foot under ground and six inches above the surface of the earth three foot thick to be of

good stone laid in a workman like manner. The grates in windows to be set in a frame in the center of the walls to be made strong and rabiten in the logs two inches thick the inside of the frame to be lined with iron half an inch thick well spiked on, and the logs where they are cut to make the windows to be lined with rolled iron half an inch thick with spikos.

The whole to be completed by the 4th monday in October next. The payment to be made when the work is completed by order drawn on the Treasury of the County. One bid reserved for the use of the County. The undertaker to give bond and security to the acceptance of the sheriff for the faithful performance of the work.

Ordered by the board that the new jail be built on the center of the west half of Lot Number 38 in Greensburg.

And it is further ordered that the sheriff at the time and place aforesaid sell the old jail on a credit until the first of January next for the best price he can obtain for the same, one bid reserved for the use of the county; bond and security requested.

And it is further ordered that George McCoy be appointed to inspect the work of the new jail as it progresses who will report the same to this board.

Signed, Commissioners (May 8 1832)

Seth Lowe

George W Hopkins

Edward Tanner

(Copy by Raymond Carr)

BASEBALL MEMORIES

It was a Tuesday morning in May 1975 that I was preparing to go to Northern Kentucky where I teach law. A knock at the door was answered and there stood an athletic-looking man who appeared to be about sixty years old.

"Can you still see?" he said, and then, "Can you still count to three strikes?"

It was Bob Wright, whom I had not seen for about forty years. For almost an hour, we pored over old baseball record books and recalled times gone by.

He was not the only Greensburg native to pitch in the big leagues. Dyar Miller, a graduate of New Point High School, now is pitching for the Baltimore Orioles. But a generation ago, Greensburg was proud of its famous pitcher.

The Baseball Encyclopaedia shows that Robert Cassius Wright was born in Greensburg on Dec. 13, 1891. Actually it was on a farm south of Greensburg.

He had "a cup of coffee", so to speak, in the big leagues. In 1915 he pitched four innings and fanned three batters with the Chicago Cubs. "I was one pitcher in the big leagues who was never scored upon, because I didn't get into that many games," he said.

He was a starting pitcher for the Toledo Mud Hens in the American Association more than fifty years ago. At that time, the Association was a fast league, just below the majors, and would rank with many clubs in the major leagues today.

In looking at some old newspapers in the County Recorder's office for another purpose recently, I was attracted to an issue of October 1922. The American Association season was over and Bob Wright came back to Greensburg and pitched for the Eagles against Batesville.

I remember that game very well. Ten years old, I was in the grandstand behind home plate and recall the six-foot-one pitcher with "Mud Hens" across the shirt of his uniform.

The newspaper account relates that the Eagles won, 2-0, that Bob Wright pitched a no-hit game, and that he struck out twenty Batesville batters.

That was in the heyday of the Greensburg Eagles as a baseball team. Formed in 1920, they built a modern ball park in 1921 and were undefeated that year. The player payroll is said to have been about \$300 a Sunday and the attendance level, never below about 1,400, some Sundays exceeded 3,000.

Bob Wright still was a star pitcher in 1924 when he jumped to the Mid West League. It was known as an "outlaw" league because it did not recognize the reserve clause in baseball contracts. Pitching for the Nash Club in Kenosha, Wis., he continued as a star until he returned to Greensburg and bought into an automobile agency.

Bob Wright was with the Indiana Department of Revenue for many years until he retired to Sacramento, Calif. He still lives there.

The Southeastern Indiana Semipro League was formed in 1931 and the late Oskar Rust managed and pitched for the Greensburg Greens. He had been a star pitcher for Notre Dame.

The following year the management passed to Father Kasper, the assistant at St. Mary's, and Bob Wright, then forty years old, pitched a few games. I recall umpiring behind the plate at Oldenburg when he pitched for the Greens. By that time, I had umpired in the Cincinnati sandlots for five years and was in my second year with the SEI League.

I worked in a filling station at the time, the first to be built in Greensburg and located at the southwest corner of Main and East Streets.

Bob stopped in one day and we were talking baseball. He recalled that one of the best club owners he ever pitched for was Tom Fairweather in the Western League in maybe 1914.

I said, "He must be the fellow who now is president of the Western Association."

As a result, Bob wrote a glowing letter to Tom about me, and that winter I met Tom at the minor league convention. Tom got me a job in the Nebraska State League for 1935 and then brought me up to the Western Association in 1936.

After that, I drifted to the Carolinas, Vermont, upper New York and Ontario until called to service for World War II.

Bob Wright gets to Greensburg occasionally and visits his sister, Mrs. Rollin Meek, who lives on West First Street. As he left, he borrowed a record book to show her.

His parting comment was, "Jim, this is the first time I have talked baseball with anyone in more than twenty years."

-----James K. Gaynor

THE BULLETIN

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DECATUR COUNTY

Vol. 3 - No. 65

Greensburg, Indiana

Sept. 25, 1975

IT ISN'T HISTORY

Thomas Cole of the Wabash College biology faculty writing in the Indianapolis News, states that poison ivy is the most widely known of all poisonous plants in North America. That we know. But we didn't know that Capt. John Smith way back there in Jamestown, Virginia, was an early victim, for he wrote in 1624 as follows:-

"The poysoned weed is much in shape like our English ivy, but being touched, causeth rednesse, itching and lastly blisters, the which howsoever after awhile passe away of themselves without further harme."

We don't believe that Capt. Smith had a very severe case of poison ivy for he makes no mention of having used bleach after being exposed to this infernal weed. Bleach is very good and cheap. We also find it effective to wash our hands with a strong laundry soap and not rinse afterwards. Call this prevention or cure, however you like. It is good to know that poison ivy has three leaves as opposed to four leaves for the true ivy.

An earlier issue of the BULLETIN had a cure for the itch, which might be considered even worse than poison ivy, for it is more persistent. But speaking of persistency, have you ever stumbled into a nest of yellow jackets? Against these little varnints, there is no defense, only retreat. We speak from experience!! - ed.

OCCASION:

Fall Meeting

DATE:

Sunday afternoon
October 5, 1975
2:00 P.M.

PLACE:

Westport Baptist Church
Westport, Indiana

SPEAKER:

Rev. John Cassidy

Reverend Cassidy is the paster of the Westport Baptist Church and will have for his topic, a subject of historical interest, particularly so because he was involved. Arrangements by Dwight Shera and William Parker. A social hour is to follow.

EVERYBODY IS WELCOME! COME AND BRING
A GUEST.

* * *

THE SOCIETY'S OFFICERS 1975

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Treasurer

Miss Alpha Thackery

* * *

"The history of liberty is the history of the limitations on the power of government."

-President Woodrow Wilson

WESTPORT

ONE OF THE MOST THRIVING BUSINESS TOWNS IN DECATUR COUNTY

HAS FOUR CHURCHES, SPLENDID SCHOOLS, NATURAL GAS, GOOD BANK, HUSTLING BUSINESS MEN.

Friday afternoon the editor of The Standard boarded the 7:10 train on the Michigan Division of the Big Four, our point of destination being Westport.

We passed through Horace, where our train called a halt of only two minutes. While there we did not see the "thousand hills", but we know the cattle are there, as Horace is the home of the world renowned herd of Short Horns belonging to J. G. Robbins & Sons, concerning which we shall speak at another time.

Letts was the next stop, but only for sixty seconds-just giving us time to get a glimpse of a smile playing on the face of Postmaster Cox.

In a few minutes we landed at Westport, where we were met by hotel and liverymen, each soliciting business and hustling a la city style, which is commendable.

When in Westport we were in the hands of our friends, and a welcome and the freedom of the town was extended by Mayor W. T. Stott.

Westport is not only one of the best little towns in the county, but in the state.

In addition to its wide-awake business men and well stocked and well kept business houses it has.

THREE STONE QUARRIES, near by, that employ a large number of men, and pay out vast sums of money each month during the operating season. These quarries are a great financial blessing both to the laboring classes and to the business men of Westport.

Hundreds and hundreds of car loads of excellent stone are shipped each year to different parts of the country, and the amount of money that comes into Westport from this one enterprise is something marvelous.

These quarries are known as the Westport Lime Stone Co., the Union Stone Co. and the Hoosier Stone Co.

NATURAL GAS

There is an abundant supply of natural gas (the kind that burns, makes heat and light) within and around the corporate limits of Westport and the luxury and advantage is fully enjoyed and appreciated by the citizens. (let those seeking natural advantages to locate manufactory make a note of this. A hint to the wise should be sufficient).

The homes and business houses are lighted and heated by natural gas and the town is illuminated by it as well.

TWO RAILROADS.

The Michigan Division of the Big Four railroad passes through the town, and the Southern Indiana has its northern terminus at this place, making the shipping facilities and accommodations quite convenient and advantageous, giving a splendid outlet for all such commodities as the citizens and farmers of that section care to ship and receive.

In fact, Westport enjoys many advantages that space denies us the pleasure and privilege of narrating here in this article, that are destined to keep the town in the forefront rank and at the head of the column in the progressive and onward march to still greater achievements and renown.

AMONGST HER BUSINESS MEN.

A first-class restaurant is run by Gib Borden.

Ed. Moore does a general blacksmithing business.

T. Milton Deupree conducts a first-class harness shop.

Ed. Ricketts is the hustling contractor and builder.

A splendid hardware store is managed by Ed. Whalen.

A flour and feed store is conducted by J. Cleet Hamilton.

Harding Bros. conduct a general store, and a good one.

A general store that is up-to-date is that of Manuel Bros. & Co.

J. T. McCullough conducts a general store that is a success.

Frank O. Willey is doing a splendid business in the saw mill line.

Peter Turaska is a shoe cobbler, who is a veteran at the business.

E. L. Shaw is the manager of a combination grocery and restaurant.

Omer Givens conducts a restaurant, and it is a good place to "feed".

G. W. Moor is the chicken fancier, and has some fine Langshan fowls.

The musical hum of the saw is daily heard in the mill of Thomas Bewley.

W.T. Stott & Co., who are carrying a full and complete line of up-to-date dry goods, clothing, groceries, provisions, boots, shoes, hats, caps, tobacco and cigars, and a thousand and one other things kept in a first-class general store.

Dr. James M. Burk is the optician and will look after the defects of your eyes.

A splendid line of hardware and farm implements is handled by Tripp Bros.

The livery barn of Hause & Biddinger is receiving a liberal share of the patronage.

A home like place to stop is at the boarding house of Mrs. Ice Low. She serves elegant meals.

Miss Rose Spears is successfully managing the "Racket Store", and enjoys a splendid trade.

Ezra Roberts, liveryman and "hoss merchant", is known by everybody as one of the jolliest of the jolly.

The furniture and undertaking establishment of J. Frank Hamilton would do credit to a large city.

George Lugenbell finds his time well employed in repairing carriages, buggies, wagons and tools of all kinds.

A grist mill is owned and operated by Ira Colson, and supplies the inhabitants with a superior quality of corn meal.

When it comes to ribbons, feathers, bonnets, hats, etc., a fine display will be found in the millinery store of Mrs. R. L. Slater.

One of the business men who "pegs away", day by day, trying to make his business pay, is Benjamin Rogers, the shoemaker.

Anything and everything that is usually found in a well regulated dry goods store will be found at the store of M. G. Stewart.

If you want a pretty little bonnet with a flower garden on it, or anything else in the millinery line, call on Mrs. M. A. Fulkerson.

Westport has quite a number of business men, and they are live, hustling, wide-awake, enterprising fellows, among whom we mention:

The meat market is conducted by Rutherford & Davis, experts in the business, and good fellows who are always glad to "meat" your wants.

The Tyner & Stewart elevator is doing a land office business. These gentlemen not only buy and ship grain, but buy and ship hogs, cattle, sheep, etc.

If you want to while the hours of dull care away, just drop in at the F.P. Pope novelty works and you will be wiser as to what is going on in this world.

J. N. Keith can shave you and then take your picture and show you how pretty you look with a clean face. Combination barber shop and photograph gallery.

James Nicely is the real estate agent, and he's always ready to "do you before you have an opportunity to do him". Good fellow, though, and always has some good bargains.

T.W. Robinson is the kind, accommodating and efficient postmaster. "Torey" is well liked, and is proving the right man in the right place. Good luck to the P.M. of Westport.

Isaiah Proctor is the largest resident land owner in the town. He owns about five hundred acres. He is past eighty years of age, and retired from

the farm and has been a resident of the town since 1872.

For many and many a year the well-known ring from out the blacksmith shop and from the anvil of Charley Talkington has been heard. He is a veteran at the business, and a better smith than Charley you will not find.

We can truthfully say that Albert ("Boe") Roberts grew up in a livery stable, and he is acquainted with the business from a to z. He is a hustler, accommodating, and by close application to business has made a success in life.

An old and prominent figure is William J. Richardson, who, for the past half century, has manufactured and sold baskets for a livelihood. He has made thousands and thousands of all kinds of "split" baskets, and has always found a ready market for them.

The Westport Bank is a solid and permanent fixture. As an evidence of the confidence reposed in this institution, we have but to refer to the individual deposits subject to check, which amount to the good old tune of \$60,745.41. J. Minor Gaston is the president, John S. Morris cashier and Miss Mayme Baker assistant cashier.

The Morgan Hotel, owned and operated by that champion feather-weight, Gilmour Morgan, is a good place to stop, to eat, to sleep and to rest. Everything is neat, clean, appetizing and comfortable. The house has the personal supervision and attention of Mr. Morgan. You will make no mistake by stopping at the Morgan. Rates reasonable and accommodations first-class.

Edward Brown, a tonsorial artist, at one time, received a half dollar for "hauling a man all over town". It happened in this way: Ed, was a "cub" in the shop, just learning the trade; a traveling man came in, and the proprietor being busy cutting a head of hair, he inquired if Ed could shave him, to which Ed replied in the affirmative. The traveling man seated himself in the chair; he had a rough, hard, shaggy beard of about a week's growth; Ed went to work on him--or on his beard--and in the course of an

hour or so "turned him loose". The traveling man handed Ed fifty cents, put on his coat, started out, when Ed offered him his correct change. The traveling man looked at Ed, then at the money, and inquired anxiously "What is that?" Ed replied: "Why, that is your change", when the traveling man said: "Oh, hell, just keep it, it is worth a half dollar to haul a man all over town."

THE MEDICAL FRATERNITY

Among the members of the medical fraternity are: Dr. O.F. Welch, Dr. William Hause, Dr. T.E.F. Miller, Dr. E. K. Westhafer, Dr. J.P. Burroughs, Dr. J. B. Crisler, Dr. H. J. Templeton, dentist; and last, but not least, comes Dr. Oliver Childers, the "horse physician."

SECRET ORDERS

Westport has her full quota of secret orders, which are as follows: Masons, Odd Fellows, Knights of Pythias, Red Men, Grand Army Post, Relief Corps, Rathbone Sisters, Daughters of Rebekah. The Odd Fellows have a magnificent business block, which they erected at a cost of six thousand dollars.

CHURCHES AND THEIR PASTORS.

The names of the different churches and their pastors are as follows: Rev. Frank Hester, Methodist; Rev. M. O. Jarvis, Christian; Rev. Mr. Shepperd, Baptist; Rev. William Hodson, United Brethren, and Rev. Father Delaney, Catholic. Both the churches and ministers compare favorably with any town of the size of Westport in the state.

SPLENDID SCHOOL BUILDING.

Westport has a splendid four-room brick school building, and an excellent corps of teachers, with Prof. Thomas Clerkin as superintendent.

THE NEWSPAPER.

The press--the mighty moulder of

public opinion and the guardian angel of liberty-is one of the enterprises of which Westport proudly boasts. The Courier-Independent, edited and published by Carl Shafer, is a neat and well conducted paper that unceasingly sings the praises of Westport, week in and week out, through its columns. It is entitled to and should receive the unstinted support of the town and community in which it is published.

NOTES.

Simon Sharp was the first hotel keeper.

The first brick house was erected in 1834 by Samuel Stevens.

Westport has a population of between eight hundred and one thousand.

The town of Westport was platted in 1833 by Simon Sharp and John C. Cann.

The oldest living resident is "Uncle George" Boicourt, aged ninety-one years past.

Simon McCullough is the oldest merchant of the town--he is a merchant tailor.

"Uncle Lewis" C. Stott has been a near-by resident of the town since 1843. He is now ninety-two years old.

William Shultz was the first medical doctor, and also the first merchant. He opened a general store in Westport in 1833.

The first church organized in Westport was by Samuel Strickland, a disciple of Alexander Campbell, and the meetings were held in a barn for a time.

Rev. J.G. Brengle is a Baptist minister who makes his home in Westport and looks after the "lost sheep" in various places. He is an able Biblical student, a logical reasoner, a success as a revivalist, an excellent Christian gentleman who has the love, confidence, respect and good will of all, and is a splendid gentleman in the true sense of the word.

There is one gentleman who doesn't reside immediately in the town, but who claims it as his home--we refer to that irrepressible, non combustible, all-wool-and-a-yard wide, jolly,

jovial, good fellow, known by almost every man, woman and child in Decatur county--"Uncle Zack" Boicourt, of "Old Settlers" fame. He is a character without an equal, and in a class by himself when it comes to playing pranks on his neighbors. "Uncle Zack" is the clown of Sandcreek township, and the "King Bee" amongst the Old Settlers. Hip, hip, hurrah for "Uncle Zack", and may his tribe never grow less!

THE "SUNDAY LID" IS ON, SAYS MAYOR W. T. STOTT.

When interrogated as to whether or not the "lid" was on in Westport on Sundays, Mayor William T. Stott said:

"The blue laws will be strictly enforced in Westport from this time on. A man caught eating a ham sandwich or ringing a church bell on Sunday will be run through a corn shredder. Everything will be so quiet on Sunday here that the ticking of a watch will be sufficient provocation for a charge of disturbing the peace. I intend to make the town so tight that a splinter can not be driven into it with a pile driver. Restaurants and boarding houses will only be allowed to serve the regular meals, and persons asking for a second order of pie above a whisper will be muzzled and sent to prayer meeting. Candy sent to prayer meeting. Candy kitchens, shoe shining chairs, drug stores, news stands, livery stables, milk wagons, and in fact, everything not absolutely necessary, will come under the ban. Preachers will be expected to earn their salaries on Saturday night and remain at home with their families on the day of rest. A man convicted of profanity, even on a week day, will have his tobacco taken away from him and be sentenced to a week's stay in Sardinia!"

ed-This was Westport as of Feb. 15, 1905 according to the STANDARD.

THE BULLETIN

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DECATUR COUNTY

Vol. 3 - No. 64

Greensburg, Indiana

July 4, 1975

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!!

Ben Richardson, Westport
Mrs. Eric Austin
George Z. Wiley
Mrs. Buelah Blauvelt 823

* * *

THE LAST MEETING - Jim Scott of Richland, Indiana, in his second appearance before the Society, reviewed for us - as he put it - some things that we already knew but enjoyed hearing again. One classic statement was - with the advent of the automobile about 1900 - that the country hasn't been the same since. How true. He also stated, that the first public building to be erected was a jail. This we can understand and leads us to offer from the Commissioner's Record the specifications for what must have been our second jail. There have been several. Lot 38 is in the area of the present Johnston Wholesale Co. on South Broadway.

* * *

Fire is the best of servants;
but what a master!

There is properly no History;
only Biography.

If you hit a mule over the nose at the outset of your acquaintance, he may not love you, but he will take a deep interest in your movements ever afterward.

OCCASION: Summer Meeting

DATE: Sunday Afternoon
July 13, 1975
2:00 P.M.

PLACE: The chapel
First Baptist Church
209 W. Washington St.,
Greensburg, Indiana

SPEAKER: August M. Hardee

Mr. Hardee, manager of public relations for the Connor Prairie Pioneer Settlement, will present a film depicting highlights of that restoration. He appeared here two years ago but will offer a different program at this time. Arrangements by Walter B. Lowe and Morgan L. Miers.

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THE SOCIETY'S OFFICERS 1975

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1st. V.P. Van P. Batterton

2nd V.P.-----Col. James K. Gaynor

Corresponding Secy.-----

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710 N. Franklin St.
Greensburg, Ind. 47240

Recording Secy.-----

Dale F. Parker
225 W. Washington St.
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Treasurer

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If you hit a mule over the nose at the outset of your acquaintance, he may not love you, but he will take a deep interest in your movements ever afterward.

OCCASION:

Summer Meeting

DATE:

Sunday Afternoon
July 13, 1975
2:00 P.M.

PLACE:

The chapel
First Baptist Church
209 W. Washington St.,
Greensburg, Indiana

SPEAKER:

August M. Hardee

Mr. Hardee, manager of public relations for the Connor Prairie Pioneer Settlement, will present a film depicting highlights of that restoration. He appeared here two years ago but will offer a different program at this time. Arrangements by Walter B. Lowe and Morgan L. Miers.

EVERYBODY IS WELCOME! COME AND BRING
A GUEST.

* * *

THE SOCIETY'S OFFICERS 1975

President-----Dale G. Myers

1st. V.P.-----Van P. Batterton

2nd V.P.-----Col. James K. Gaynor

Corresponding Secy.-----

Mrs. Leonilla Lauderdale
710 N. Franklin St.
Greensburg, Ind. 47240

Recording Secy.-----

Dale F. Parker
225 W. Washington St.
Greensburg, Ind. 47240

Treasurer

Miss Alpha Thackery

* * *

Please direct all matters of membership to the Recording Secretary, Mr. Dale F. Parker, 225 W. Washington St., Greensburg, Indiana, 47240.

Ordered by the Board that the Sheriff of this county do proceed after (after giving three weeks notice in the Political Observer) to sell on the second Saturday in June next, at the door of the Court House in Greensburgh, The building of a jail for said county on the following description - to-wit:

To be of hewn timber (not less than) twelve inches square, the whole of the timbers to be 18 feet long, a double wall, the corners duftail natches, the inside walls to extend and natch on the outside walls a space between the walls of six inches to be filled with wide rocks set on edge, the under floor to be the same as the walls with stone between the logs croping each other, the foundation or first course of the floor and the two bottom rounds of the outside walls, to be of white oak, the timber of the balance of the wall of good sound wood, such as beach sugar etc. Two windows in the lower story on the west and the other on the east side of the house, opposite each other, of the following description, six inches in heighth and four feet wide, to be filled with grates of iron, one inch square, three inches apart to stand up and down and to pass through (a bar of iron half an inch think and three inches wide to crop the grate in the center bar to extend with timber two inches) a plate of rolled iron half an inch thick and to extend in the walls a proper distance, the rolled iron to cope and be well spiked on the jams around the windows. The logs of the walls to be natched close to the inside walls to be laid in lime mortar- The second floor to be of one tier of logs hewn twelve inches in thickness the edge hewn square. The second story to be in like manner of the first, with a tier of joists one foot thick laid close, resting on the inside wall, and butting against the outside wall to be hewn to a thickness of twelve inches, the edges square and on tier croping them in the same manner to extend out for the roof to stand on, and windows in the upper story similar as in the lower story -One door of common size to be cut in the end wall on the north side, in the upper story, a door frame to be made as wide as the thickness of the walls and well fastened in both walls the frame to be of white oak four inches thick to be lined on the inside with sheet iron, well spiked on the sheet iron to extend two inches on the walls, and the frame well spiked to the walls with sufficient iron spikes, not less than eight inches long. The shutter to be two and a half feet wide and six feet high to be made of two inch oak plank made double and well spiked together with strong iron spikes. A strong lock with double bolts to be well imbedded in the door with a sufficient key- both sides of the door to be entirely lined with strong sheet iron nailed on with one nail to every three inches, a sheet of hammered iron half an inch thick, twelve inches long and eight inches wide to be set in the frame the thickness of the iron, to be well spiked to the door frame with strong spikes to receive the bolt and to be bent so as to cover the inside of the frame. A substantial stairway to be erected on the outside of the jail to reach the door with a good platform the timber of white oak, the building to be well covered with shingles, the gables weatherboarded, the eaves boxed and plain cornice, the corners of the house to be neatly trimed down, a hatchway to be made in the center of the second floor two feet and a half square with a sufficient shutter, lock and key. The doors to be hung with strong wrought iron hinges. The whole of the work to be completed in a good strong workman like manner. Stories to be 7 feet high in the clear inside. The building to stand on a stone foundation of one foot under ground and six inches above the surface of the earth three foot thick to be of

good stone laid in a workman like manner. The grates in windows to be set in a frame in the center of the walls to be made strong and rabiten in the logs two inches thick the inside of the frame to be lined with iron half an inch thick well spiked on, and the logs where they are cut to make the windows to be lined with rolled iron half an inch thick with spikes.

The whole to be completed by the 4th monday in October next. The payment to be made when the work is completed by order drawn on the Treasury of the County. One bid reserved for the use of the County. The undertaker to give bond and security to the acceptance of the sheriff for the faithful performance of the work.

Ordered by the board that the new jail be built on the center of the west half of Lot Number 38 in Greensburg.

And it is further ordered that the sheriff at the time and place aforesaid sell the old jail on a credit until the first of January next for the best price he can obtain for the same, one bid reserved for the use of the county; bond and security requested.

And it is further ordered that George McCoy be appointed to inspect the work of the new jail as it progresses who will report the same to this board.

Signed, Commissioners (May 8 1832)

Seth Lowe

George W Hopkins

Edward Tanner

(Copy by Raymond Carr)

BASEBALL MEMORIES

It was a Tuesday morning in May 1975 that I was preparing to go to Northern Kentucky where I teach law. A knock at the door was answered and there stood an athletic-looking man who appeared to be about sixty years old.

"Can you still see?" he said, and then, "Can you still count to three strikes?"

It was Bob Wright, whom I had not seen for about forty years. For almost an hour, we pored over old baseball record books and recalled times gone by.

He was not the only Greensburg native to pitch in the big leagues. Dyar Miller, a graduate of New Point High School, now is pitching for the Baltimore Orioles. But a generation ago, Greensburg was proud of its famous pitcher.

The Baseball Encyclopaedia shows that Robert Cassius Wright was born in Greensburg on Dec. 13, 1891. Actually it was on a farm south of Greensburg.

He had "a cup of coffee", so to speak, in the big leagues. In 1915 he pitched four innings and fanned three batters with the Chicago Cubs. "I was one pitcher in the big leagues who was never scored upon, because I didn't get into that many games," he said.

He was a starting pitcher for the Toledo Mud Hens in the American Association more than fifty years ago. At that time, the Association was a fast league, just below the majors, and would rank with many clubs in the major leagues today.

In looking at some old newspapers in the County Recorder's office for another purpose recently, I was attracted to an issue of October 1922. The American Association season was over and Bob Wright came back to Greensburg and pitched for the Eagles against Batesville.

I remember that game very well. Ten years old, I was in the grandstand behind home plate and recall the six-foot-one pitcher with "Mud Hens" across the shirt of his uniform.

The newspaper account relates that the Eagles won, 2-0, that Bob Wright pitched a no-hit game, and that he struck out twenty Batesville batters.

That was in the heyday of the Greensburg Eagles as a baseball team. Formed in 1920, they built a modern ball park in 1921 and were undefeated that year. The player payroll is said to have been about \$300 a Sunday and the attendance level, never below about 1,400, some Sundays exceeded 3,000.

Bob Wright still was a star pitcher in 1924 when he jumped to the Mid West League. It was known as an "outlaw" league because it did not recognize the reserve clause in baseball contracts. Pitching for the Nash Club in Kenosha, Wis., he continued as a star until he returned to Greensburg and bought into an automobile agency.

Bob Wright was with the Indiana Department of Revenue for many years until he retired to Sacramento, Calif. He still lives there.

The Southeastern Indiana Semipro League was formed in 1931 and the late Oskar Rust managed and pitched for the Greensburg Greens. He had been a star pitcher for Notre Dame.

The following year the management passed to Father Kasper, the assistant at St. Mary's, and Bob Wright, then forty years old, pitched a few games. I recall umpiring behind the plate at Oldenburg when he pitched for the Greens. By that time, I had umpired in the Cincinnati sandlots for five years and was in my second year with the SEI League.

I worked in a filling station at the time, the first to be built in Greensburg and located at the southwest corner of Main and East Streets.

Bob stopped in one day and we were talking baseball. He recalled that one of the best club owners he ever pitched for was Tom Fairweather in the Western League in maybe 1914.

I said, "He must be the fellow who now is president of the Western Association."

As a result, Bob wrote a glowing letter to Tom about me, and that winter I met Tom at the minor league convention. Tom got me a job in the Nebraska State League for 1935 and then brought me up to the Western Association in 1936.

After that, I drifted to the Carolinas, Vermont, upper New York and Ontario until called to service for World War II.

Bob Wright gets to Greensburg occasionally and visits his sister, Mrs. Rollin Meek, who lives on West First Street. As he left, he borrowed a record book to show her.

His parting comment was, "Jim, this is the first time I have talked baseball with anyone in more than twenty years."

-----James K. Gaynor

THE BULLETIN

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DECATUR COUNTY

Vol. 3 - No. 65

Greensburg, Indiana

Sept. 25, 1975

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An earlier issue of the BULLETIN had a cure for the itch, which might be considered even worse than poison ivy, for it is more persistent. But speaking of persistency, have you ever stumbled into a nest of yellow jackets? Against these little varmints, there is no defense, only retreat. We speak from experience!! - ed.

OCCASION: Fall Meeting

DATE: Sunday afternoon
October 5, 1975
2:00 P.M.

PLACE: Westport Baptist Church
Westport, Indiana

SPEAKER: Rev. John Cassidy

Reverend Cassidy is the pastor of the Westport Baptist Church and will have for his topic, a subject of historical interest, particularly so because he was involved. Arrangements by Dwight Shera and William Parker. A social hour is to follow.

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-President Woodrow Wilson

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When in Westport we were in the hands of our friends, and a welcome and the freedom of the town was extended by Mayor W. T. Stott.

Westport is not only one of the best little towns in the county, but in the state.

In addition to its wide-awake business men and well stocked and well kept business houses it has.

THREE STONE QUARRIES, near by, that employ a large number of men, and pay out vast sums of money each month during the operating season. These quarries are a great financial blessing both to the laboring classes and to the business men of Westport.

Hundreds and hundreds of car loads of excellent stone are shipped each year to different parts of the country, and the amount of money that comes into Westport from this one enterprise is something marvelous.

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The homes and business houses are lighted and heated by natural gas and the town is illuminated by it as well.

TWO RAILROADS.

The Michigan Division of the Big Four railroad passes through the town, and the Southern Indiana has its northern terminus at this place, making the shipping facilities and accommodations quite convenient and advantageous, giving a splendid outlet for all such commodities as the citizens and farmers of that section care to ship and receive.

In fact, Westport enjoys many advantages that space denies us the pleasure and privilege of narrating here in this article, that are destined to keep the town in the forefront rank and at the head of the column in the progressive and onward march to still greater achievements and renown.

AMONGST HER BUSINESS MEN.

A first-class restaurant is run by Gib Borden.

Ed. Moore does a general blacksmithing business.

T. Milton Deupree conducts a first-class harness shop.

Ed. Ricketts is the hustling contractor and builder.

A splendid hardware store is managed by Ed. Whalen.

A flour and feed store is conducted by J. Cleet Hamilton.

Harding Bros. conduct a general store, and a good one.

A general store that is up-to-date is that of Manuel Bros. & Co.

J. T. McCullough conducts a general store that is a success.

Frank O. Willey is doing a splendid business in the saw mill line.

Peter Turaska is a shoe cobbler, who is a veteran at the business.

E. L. Shaw is the manager of a combination grocery and restaurant.

Omer Givens conducts a restaurant, and it is a good place to "feed".

G. W. Moor is the chicken fancier, and has some fine Langshan fowls.

The musical hum of the saw is daily heard in the mill of Thomas Bewley.

W.T. Stott & Co., who are carrying a full and complete line of up-to-date dry goods, clothing, groceries, provisions, boots, shoes, hats, caps, tobacco and cigars, and a thousand and one other things kept in a first-class general store.

Dr. James M. Burk is the optician and will look after the defects of your eyes.

A splendid line of hardware and farm implements is handled by Tripp Bros.

The livery barn of Hause & Biddinger is receiving a liberal share of the patronage.

A home like place to stop is at the boarding house of Mrs. Ice Low. She serves elegant meals.

Miss Rose Spears is successfully managing the "Racket Store", and enjoys a splendid trade.

Ezra Roberts, liveryman and "hoss merchant", is known by everybody as one of the jolliest of the jolly.

The furniture and undertaking establishment of J. Frank Hamilton would do credit to a large city.

George Lugenbell finds his time well employed in repairing carriages, buggies, wagons and tools of all kinds.

A grist mill is owned and operated by Ira Colson, and supplies the inhabitants with a superior quality of corn meal.

When it comes to ribbons, feathers, bonnets, hats, etc., a fine display will be found in the millinery store of Mrs. R. L. Slater.

One of the business men who "pegs away", day by day, trying to make his business pay, is Benjamin Rogers, the shoemaker.

Anything and everything that is usually found in a well regulated dry goods store will be found at the store of M. G. Stewart.

If you want a pretty little bonnet with a flower garden on it, or anything else in the millinery line, call on Mrs. M. A. Fulkerson.

Westport has quite a number of business men, and they are live, hustling, wide-awake, enterprising fellows, among whom we mention:

The meat market is conducted by Rutherford & Davis, experts in the business, and good fellows who are always glad to "meat" your wants.

The Tyner & Stewart elevator is doing a land office business. These gentlemen not only buy and ship grain, but buy and ship hogs, cattle, sheep, etc.

If you want to while the hours of dull care away, just drop in at the F.P. Pope novelty works and you will be wiser as to what is going on in this world.

J. N. Keith can shave you and then take your picture and show you how pretty you look with a clean face. Combination barber shop and photograph gallery.

James Nicely is the real estate agent, and he's always ready to "do you before you have an opportunity to do him". Good fellow, though, and always has some good bargains.

T.W. Robinson is the kind, accommodating and efficient postmaster.

"Torey" is well liked, and is proving the right man in the right place. Good luck to the P.M. of Westport.

Isaiah Proctor is the largest resident land owner in the town. He owns about five hundred acres. He is past eighty years of age, and retired from

the farm and has been a resident of the town since 1872.

For many and many a year the welkin ring from out the blacksmith shop and from the anvil of Charley Talkington has been heard. He is a veteran at the business, and a better smith than Charley you will not find.

We can truthfully say that Albert ("Boe") Roberts grew up in a livery stable, and he is acquainted with the business from a to z. He is a hustler, accommodating, and by close application to business has made a success in life.

An old and prominent figure is William J. Richardson, who, for the past half century, has manufactured and sold baskets for a livelihood. He has made thousands and thousands of all kinds of "split" baskets, and has always found a ready market for them.

The Westport Bank is a solid and permanent fixture. As an evidence of the confidence reposed in this institution, we have but to refer to the individual deposits subject to check, which amount to the good old tune of \$60,745.41. J. Minor Gaston is the president, John S. Morris cashier and Miss Mayme Baker assistant cashier.

The Morgan Hotel, owned and operated by that champion feather-weight, Gilmour Morgan, is a good place to stop, to eat, to sleep and to rest. Everything is neat, clean, appetizing and comfortable. The house has the personal supervision and attention of Mr. Morgan. You will make no mistake by stopping at the Morgan. Rates reasonable and accommodations first-class.

Edward Brown, a tonsorial artist, at one time, received a half dollar for "hauling a man all over town". It happened in this way: Ed, was a "cub" in the shop, just learning the trade; a traveling man came in, and the proprietor being busy cutting a head of hair, he inquired if Ed could shave him, to which Ed replied in the affirmative. The traveling man seated himself in the chair; he had a rough, hard, shaggy beard of about a week's growth; Ed went to work on him--or on his beard--and in the course of an

hour or so "turned him loose". The traveling man handed Ed fifty cents, put on his coat, started out, when Ed offered him his correct change. The traveling man looked at Ed, then at the money, and inquired anxiously "What is that?" Ed replied: "Why, that is your change", when the traveling man said: "Oh, hell, just keep it, it is worth a half dollar to haul a man all over town."

THE MEDICAL FRATERNITY

Among the members of the medical fraternity are: Dr. O. F. Welch, Dr. William Hause, Dr. T. E. F. Miller, Dr. E. K. Westhafer, Dr. J. P. Burroughs, Dr. J. B. Crisler, Dr. H. J. Templeton, dentist; and last, but not least, comes Dr. Oliver Childers, the "horse physician."

SECRET ORDERS

Westport has her full quota of secret orders, which are as follows: Masons, Odd Fellows, Knights of Pythias, Red Men, Grand Army Post, Relief Corps, Rathbone Sisters, Daughters of Rebekah. The Odd Fellows have a magnificent business block, which they erected at a cost of six thousand dollars.

CHURCHES AND THEIR PASTORS.

The names of the different churches and their pastors are as follows: Rev. Frank Hester, Methodist; Rev. M. O. Jarvis, Christian; Rev. Mr. Shepperd, Baptist; Rev. William Hodson, United Brethren, and Rev. Father Delaney, Catholic. Both the churches and ministers compare favorably with any town of the size of Westport in the state.

SPLENDID SCHOOL BUILDING.

Westport has a splendid four-room brick school building, and an excellent corps of teachers, with Prof. Thomas Clerkin as superintendent.

THE NEWSPAPER.

The press--the mighty moulder of

public opinion and the guardian angel of liberty-is one of the enterprises of which Westport proudly boasts. The Courier-Independent, edited and published by Carl Shafer, is a neat and well conducted paper that unceasingly sings the praises of Westport, week in and week out, through its columns. It is entitled to and should receive the unstinted support of the town and community in which it is published.

NOTES.

Simon Sharp was the first hotel keeper.

The first brick house was erected in 1834 by Samuel Stevens.

Westport has a population of between eight hundred and one thousand.

The town of Westport was platted in 1833 by Simon Sharp and John C. Cann.

The oldest living resident is "Uncle George" Boicourt, aged ninety-one years past.

Simon McCullough is the oldest merchant of the town--he is a merchant tailor.

"Uncle Lewis" C. Stott has been a near-by resident of the town since 1843. He is now ninety-two years old.

William Shultz was the first medical doctor, and also the first merchant. He opened a general store in Westport in 1833.

The first church organized in Westport was by Samuel Strickland, a disciple of Alexander Campbell, and the meetings were held in a barn for a time.

Rev. J.G. Brengle is a Baptist minister who makes his home in Westport and looks after the "lost sheep" in various places. He is an able Biblical student, a logical reasoner, a success as a revivalist, an excellent Christian gentleman who has the love, confidence, respect and good will of all, and is a splendid gentleman in the true sense of the word.

There is one gentleman who doesn't reside immediately in the town, but who claims it as his home--we refer to that irrepressable, non combustible, all-wool-and-a-yard wide, jolly,

joyful, good fellow, known by almost every man, woman and child in Decatur county--"Uncle Zack" Boicourt, of "Old Settlers" fame. He is a character without an equal, and in a class by himself when it comes to playing pranks on his neighbors. "Uncle Zack" is the clown of Sandcreek township, and the "King Bee" amongst the Old Settlers. Hip, hip, hurrah for "Uncle Zack", and may his tribe never grow less!

THE "SUNDAY LID" IS ON, SAYS MAYOR W. T. STOTT.

When interrogated as to whether or not the "lid" was on in Westport on Sundays, Mayor William T. Stott said:

"The blue laws will be strictly enforced in Westport from this time on. A man caught eating a ham sandwich or ringing a church bell on Sunday will be run through a corn shredder. Everything will be so quiet on Sunday here that the ticking of a watch will be sufficient provocation for a charge of disturbing the peace. I intend to make the town so tight that a splinter can not be driven into it with a pile driver. Restaurants and boarding houses will only be allowed to serve the regular meals, and persons asking for a second order of pie above a whisper will be muzzled and sent to prayer meeting. Candy sent to prayer meeting. Candy kitchens, shoe shining chairs, drug stores, news stands, livery stables, milk wagons, and in fact, everything not absolutely necessary, will come under the ban. Preachers will be expected to earn their salaries on Saturday night and remain at home with their families on the day of rest. A man convicted of profanity, even on a week day, will have his tobacco taken away from him and be sentenced to a week's stay in Sardinia!"

ed--This was Westport as of Feb. 15, 1905 according to the STANDARD.

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/THE BULLETIN/

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DECATUR COUNTY

Vol. 3 - No. 65

Greensburg, Indiana

Sept. 25, 1975

IT ISN'T HISTORY

Thomas Cole of the Wabash College biology faculty writing in the Indianapolis News, states that poison ivy is the most widely known of all poisonous plants in North America. That we know. But we didn't know that Capt. John Smith way back there in Jamestown, Virginia, was an early victim, for he wrote in 1624 as follows:-

"The poysoned weed is much in shape like our English ivy, but being touched, causeth rednesse, itching and lastly blisters, the which howsoever after awhile passe away of themselves without further harme."

We don't believe that Capt. Smith had a very severe case of poison ivy for he makes no mention of having used bleach after being exposed to this infernal weed. Bleach is very good and cheap. We also find it effective to wash our hands with a strong laundry soap and not rinse afterwards. Call this prevention or cure, however you like. It is good to know that poison ivy has three leaves as opposed to four leaves for the true ivy.

An earlier issue of the BULLETIN had a cure for the itch, which might be considered even worse than poison ivy, for it is more persistent. But speaking of persistency, have you ever stumbled into a nest of yellow jackets? Against these little varmints, there is no defense, only retreat. We speak from experience!! - ed.

OCCASION:

Fall Meeting

DATE:

Sunday afternoon
October 5, 1975
2:00 P.M.

PLACE:

Westport Baptist Church
Westport, Indiana

SPEAKER:

Rev. John Cassidy

Reverend Cassidy is the paster of the Westport Baptist Church and will have for his topic, a subject of historical interest, particularly so because he was involved. Arrangements by Dwight Shera and Willian Parker. A social hour is to follow.

EVERYBODY IS WELCOME! COME AND BRING A GUEST.

* * *

THE SOCIETY'S OFFICERS 1975

President-----Dale G. Myers
1st. V.P.-----Van P. Batterton
2nd V.P.-----Col. James K. Gaynor
Corresponding Secy.-----

Mrs. Leonilla Lauderdale
710 N. Franklin St.,
Greensburg, Ind. 47240
Recording Secy.-----

Dale F. Parker
225 W. Washington St.
Greensburg, Ind.
47240

Treasurer-----Miss Alpha Thackery

* * *

"The history of liberty is the history of the limitations on the power of government."

-President Woodrow Wilson

WESTPORT

ONE OF THE MOST THRIVING BUSINESS TOWNS IN DECATUR COUNTY

HAS FOUR CHURCHES, SPLENDID SCHOOLS, NATURAL GAS, GOOD BANK, HUSTLING BUSINESS MEN.

Friday afternoon the editor of The Standard boarded the 7:10 train on the Michigan Division of the Big Four, our point of destination being Westport.

We passed through Horace, where our train called a halt of only two minutes. While there we did not see the "thousand hills", but we know the cattle are there, as Horace is the home of the world renowned herd of Short Horns belonging to J. G. Robbins & Sons, concerning which we shall speak at another time.

Letts was the next stop, but only for sixty seconds-just giving us time to get a glimpse of a smile playing on the face of Postmaster Cox.

In a few minutes we landed at Westport, where we were met by hotel and liverymen, each soliciting business and hustling a la city style, which is commendable.

When in Westport we were in the hands of our friends, and a welcome and the freedom of the town was extended by Mayor W. T. Stott.

Westport is not only one of the best little towns in the county, but in the state.

In addition to its wide-awake business men and well stocked and well kept business houses it has.

THREE STONE QUARRIES, near by, that employ a large number of men, and pay out vast sums of money each month during the operating season. These quarries are a great financial blessing both to the laboring classes and to the business men of Westport.

Hundreds and hundreds of car loads of excellent stone are shipped each year to different parts of the country, and the amount of money that comes into Westport from this one enterprise is something marvelous.

These quarries are known as the Westport Lime Stone Co., the Union Stone Co. and the Hoosier Stone Co.

NATURAL GAS

There is an abundant supply of natural gas (the kind that burns, makes heat and light) within and around the corporate limits of Westport and the luxury and advantage is fully enjoyed and appreciated by the citizens. (let those seeking natural advantages to locate manufactoryes make a note of this. A hint to the wise should be sufficient).

The homes and business houses are lighted and heated by natural gas and the town is illuminated by it as well.

TWO RAILROADS.

The Michigan Division of the Big Four railroad passes through the town, and the Southern Indiana has its northern terminus at this place, making the shipping facilities and accommodations quite convenient and advantageous, giving a splendid outlet for all such commodities as the citizens and farmers of that section care to ship and receive.

In fact, Westport enjoys many advantages that space denies us the pleasure and privilege of narrating here in this article, that are destined to keep the town in the forefront rank and at the head of the column in the progressive and onward march to still greater achievements and renown.

AMONGST HER BUSINESS MEN.

A first-class restaurant is run by Gib Borden.

Ed. Moore does a general blacksmithing business.

T. Milton Deupree conducts a first-class harness shop.

Ed. Ricketts is the hustling contractor and builder.

A splendid hardware store is managed by Ed. Whalen.

A flour and feed store is conducted by J. Cleet Hamilton.

Harding Bros. conduct a general store, and a good one.

A general store that is up-to-date is that of Manuel Bros. & Co.

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